UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.47
15 November 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 14 November 1991, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. SHIHABI	(Saudi Arabia)
later:	Mr. Al-Khussaiby (Vice-President)	(Oman)

- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [17] (continued)

(b) Election of the members of the International Law Commission

(i) Notes by the Secretary-General concerning the list of candidates

(ii) Curricula vitae

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(b) ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

(i) NOTES BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE LIST OF CANDIDATES (A/46/228 and Add.1-12, A/46/620 and Add.1)

(ii) CURRICULA VITAE (A/46/253 and Add.1-3)

The PRESIDENT: In conformity with the provisions of chapter I of the statute of the International Law Commission, the 34 members of the Commission are to be elected for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1992.

Members will recall that the Assembly, at its 37th plenary meeting, decided to request the Secretary-General to issue a consolidated list incorporating new candidates and information received subsequent to the deadline for the submission of nominations.

In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to document A/46/620 of 8 November 1991, which lists in alphabetical order the candidates nominated by Governments of States Members of the United Nations for election to the International Law Commission. In addendum 1 to this document, which was circulated this morning, the Assembly is informed of the withdrawal of a candidate. Accordingly, that name should be deleted from the list of candidates set out in document A/46/620.

The curricula vitae of the candidates are contained in document A/46/253 and addenda 1 to 3 thereto.

There are now 48 candidates eligible in this election.

I call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt): I have asked to speak in order to draw attention to document A/46/620/Add.1, dated 13 November 1991, in which it is stated that Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, has decided to withdraw his candidature for re-election to the International Law Commission.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has taken note of that fact.

I should like to recall that the persons to be elected to the International Law Commission should individually possess the qualifications required - that is to say, they should be persons of recognized competence in international law. The statute also provides that - in the Commission as a whole representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured.

According to the statute, the members of the Commission are eligible for re-election. The present membership of the Commission is set out in the annex to document A/46/228 of 17 June 1991.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the election shall be held by secret ballot.

According to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 36/39, the 34 members should be elected as follows:

(a) Nine nationals from African States;

(b) Eight nationals from Asian States;

(c) Three nationals from Eastern European States;

(d) Six nationals from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Eight nationals from Western European and other States.

(The President)

The ballot papers reflect this pattern. Representatives are requested to place a cross to the left of the names of the candidates for whom they wish to vote, but for no more than the number of seats allocated to each region. Representative may vote only for those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers.

I should like to inform members that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and not less than a majority of the votes of the Member States present and voting shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates who have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and, as I said before, they should place a cross to the left of the names of the candidates for whom they wish to vote, but for no more than the number of seats allocated to each region. A ballot paper containing more votes than the number of seats allocated to the relevant region will be declared invalid.

Accordingly, please ensure that the ballot papers marked A, for African States, do not contain votes for more than nine candidates; the ballot papers marked B, for Asian States, do not contain votes for more than eight candidates; the ballot papers marked C, for Eastern European States, do not contain votes for more than three candidates; the ballot papers maked D, for Latin American and Caribbean States, do not contain votes for more than six

(The President)

candidates; and the ballot papers marked E, for Western European and other States, do not contain votes for more than eight candidates.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Kofler (Austria), Mr. Oroza (Bolivia), Mr. Sandoval (Ecuador), Mr. Rokotuivuna (Fiji), Mr. Mosala (Lesotho), Mr. Manjate (Angola), Ms. Arguillas (Philippines), Mr. Watson (Suriname) and Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.40 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP A

Number of ballot papers:	164
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	164
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	164
Required majority:	83
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Doudou Thiam (Senegal)	148
Mr. Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)	146
Mr. Ahmed Mahiou (Algeria)	142
Mr. Edilbert Razafindralambo (Madagascar)	139
Mr. Kamil E. Idris (Sudan)	138
Mr. Guillaume Pambou-Tchivounda (Gabon)	134
Mr. Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco)	122
Mr. Salifou Fomba (Mali)	111
Mr. Peter C. R. Kabatsi (Uganda)	111
Ms. Mwangala Beatrice Kamuwanga (Zambia)	95
Mr. Mikuin Leliel Balanda (Zaire)	74

GROUP B

Number of ballot papers:	164
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	164
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	164
Required majority:	83
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Chusei Yamada (Japan)	148
Mr. Shi Jiuyong (China)	134
Mr. Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao (India)	127
Mr. Andreas J. Jacovides (Cyprus)	124
Mr. Husain M. Al-Baharna (Bahrain)	121
Mr. Awn S. Al-Khasawneh (Jordan)	118
Mr. Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja (Indonesia)	118
Mr. John De Saram (Sri Lanka)	110
Mr. Djamchid Momtaz (Islamic Republic of Iran)	101
Mr. Peter D. Donigi (Papua New Guinea)	64
Mr. Riad Siage (Syrian Arab Republic)	58

GROUP C

Number of ballot papers:	164
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	163
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	160
Required majority:	81
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Vladlen Vereshetin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)	120
Mr. Vaclav Mikulka (Czechoslovakia)	112
Mr. Alexander Yankov (Bulgaria)	79
Mrs. Renata Szafarz (Poland)	78
Mr. Budislav Vukas (Yugoslavia)	74

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	164
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	164
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	164
Required majority:	83
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreño (Chile)	138
Mr. Carlos Calero Rodrigues (Brazil)	129
Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica)	126
Mr. Alberto Szekely (Mexico)	124
Mr. Julio Barboza (Argentina)	113
Mr. Francisco Villagran Kramer (Guatemala)	107
Mr. Luis Solari Tudela (Peru)	97
Mr. Rafael Rivas Posada (Colombia)	91

GROUP E

Number of ballot papers:	163
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	163
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	163
Required majority:	82
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. James R. Crawford (Australia)	126
Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz (Italy)	121
Mr. Derek William Bowett (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	114
Mr. Alain Pellet (France)	107
Mr. Robert B. Rosenstock (United States of America)	107
Mr. Christian Tomuschat (Germany)	107
Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson (Iceland)	103
Mr. Mehmet Güney (Turkey)	97
Mr. Jose Manuel Lacleta Muñoz (Spain)	93
Mr. Erik Suy (Belgium)	86
Mr. Francis Mahon Hayes (Ireland)	85
Mr. Emmanuel J. Roucounas (Greece)	72
Mr. David Attard (Malta)	44

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Doudou Thiam (Senegal), Mr. Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Mr. Ahmed Mahiou (Algeria), Mr. Edilbert Razafindralambo (Madagascar), Mr. Kamil E. Idris (Sudan), Mr. Guillaume Pambou-Tchivounda (Gabon), Mr. Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco),

Mr. Salifou Fomba (Mali), Mr. Peter C. R. Kabatsi (Uganda), Mr. Chusei Yamada (Japan), Mr. Shi Jiuyong (China), Mr. Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao (India), Mr. Andreas J. Jacovides (Cyprus), Mr. Husain M. Al-Baharna (Bahrain), Mr. Awn S. Al-Khasawneh (Jordan), Mr. Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja (Indonesia), Mr. John De Saram (Sri Lanka), Mr. Vladlen Vereshetin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Vaclav Mikulka (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreño (Chile), Mr. Carlos Calero Rodrigues (Brazil), Mr. Patrick Lipton Robinson (Jamaica), Mr. Alberto Szekely (Mexico), Mr. Julio Barboza (Argentina), Mr. Francisco Villagran Kramer (Guatemala), Mr. James R. Crawford (Australia), Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz (Italy), Mr. Derek William Bowett (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Alain Pellet (France), Robert B. Rosenstock (United States of America), Mr. Christian Tomuschat (Germany), Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson (Iceland), Mr. Mehmet Güney (Turkey) were elected members of the International Law Commission for a period of five years beginning on 1 January 1992.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the persons who have been elected to the International Law Commission.

(The President)

Since one seat remains to be filled from among the Eastern European States, we shall now proceed to the first restricted ballot.

In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, this second round of balloting will be restricted to the candidates having obtained the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot to a number not more than twice the number of seats remaining to be filled. Consequently, only the following candidates are eligible at this time: Mrs. Renata Szafarz of Poland and Mr. Alexander Yankov of Bulgaria.

The ballot papers, which will now be distributed, contain only the names of the candidates eligible in this round of balloting. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to place a cross before the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing more than one vote will be declared invalid.*

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Kofler (Austria), Mr. Sandoval (Ecuador), Mr. Mosala (Lesotho), Ms. Arguillas (Philippines), and Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

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* Mr. Al-Khussaiby (Oman), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m. and resumed at 1.20 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

GROUP C

Number of ballot papers:	162
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	159
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	153
Required majority:	77
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Alexander Yankov (Bulgaria)	78
Mrs. Renata Szafarz (Poland)	75

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Yankov (Bulgaria) was elected a member of the International Law Commission for a period of five years beginning on 1 January 1992.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I congratulate the person who has just been elected to the International Law Commission and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 17 (b).

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.48
22 November 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 18 November 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Development and international economic cooperation [77]
- (j) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development: report of the Second Committee (Part XII)
- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences [8] (continued)
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [19]
- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General
- Programme of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

(j) EFFECTIVE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (Part XII) (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part A))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee to introduce the report of that Committee.

Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar), Rapporteur of the Second Committee (interpretation from French): I have the honour to introduce the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part A)), under agenda item 77 (j), entitled "Development and international economic cooperation: Effective mobilization and integration of women in development". In paragraph 1 of the report, the number "645" is to be added to the document mentioned in parentheses, so that the document number should read "A/46/645".

I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 7 of the report, in which the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "International Forum on Health - A Conditionality for Economic Development: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Inequity" it adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Second Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

(The President)

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Second Committee, I should like to inform representatives that we shall proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Second Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.11 (Part A)). The draft resolution is entitled "International Forum on Health - A Conditionality for Economic Development: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Inequity".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/17).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 77.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES (A/46/374/Add.4)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): As members are aware, the Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 40/243, decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

As indicated in the letter addressed to me by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, the Committee on Conferences has recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Trust Committee of the United Nations Fund for Namibia to meet at Headquarters during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 19

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/46/23; A/AC.109/1056-A/AC.109/1063, A/AC.109/1064 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1065-A/AC.109/1067, A/AC.109/1068 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1069-A/AC.109/1071, A/AC.109/1073, A/AC.109/1074 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1075-A/AC.109/1078, A/AC.109/1079 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1082)

(b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/589, A/46/593, A/46/634)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Before calling on the first speaker, I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed today at 12 noon.

If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Assembly adopts that proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Once again, I should like to say that as the list of speakers in the debate on this item is to be closed today, I ask members to pay attention to the deadline and ask those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names on the speaker's list as soon as possible.

I now call on the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, Mr. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed of the Syrian Arab Republic, to introduce the Committee's report.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee of 24): I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1991, which is contained in document A/46/23.

The report, which relates, inter alia, to agenda item 19, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 45/34 of 20 November 1990 on the implementation of the Declaration, by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and to

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur,
Special Committee of 24)

continue to pay special to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of visiting missions to those Territories whenever the Special Committee deems it appropriate, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

During the year, the Special Committee was able to discharge the tasks thus entrusted to it by the Assembly and to submit appropriate recommendations on all the items referred to it for consideration and report, by meeting between February and August and by holding extensive consultations throughout the year among its members.

The Special Committee also conducted an intensive review of its own approach and methodology in order to organize its work. One of the most significant results of that review was the consolidation into a single resolution of 10 resolutions relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, contained in document A/46/23/Part VI.

However, that very consolidated resolution adopted by consensus was unfortunately broken by none other than those who initially proposed it and pressed by various means for its adoption. In the light of the above change, the Special Committee reviewed during the year the implementation of the Declaration relating to the remaining Territories and formulated a series of recommendations with a view to accelerating the pace of decolonization and to facilitating the poltical, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples in those Territories.

The Special Committee reiterates that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in those Territories as will enable their peoples to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The Special Committee reaffirms that it is ultimately for the people of those Territories

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

to determine their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration, and calls upon the administering Powers to facilitate the programmes of political education to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

In reaffirming that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers to promote the economic and social development of the Territories, the Special Committee recommends that priority should continue to be given to the strengthening and diversification of the economy of those Territories.

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee urges the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate by facilitating the dispatch of such missions to the Territories under their administration.

In addition, the report also contains the Special Committee's recommendations regarding the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and New Caledonia, and its decisions regarding Pitcairn and St. Helena.

As regards the role of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, the Special Committee requests those agencies and organizations to strengthen measures of support and formulate adequate programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned, bearing in mind that such assistance should not only meet their immediate needs but also create conditions for development after they have exercised their right to self-determination and independence.

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

In this connection, the attention of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations is drawn to the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 June 1990.

Those agencies and institutions are urged, in formulating their assistance programmes, to take due account of those conclusions and recommendations, and to assist in achieving the objective set out by General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1989, calling for complete decolonization by the year 2000.

The Committee urges the organizations of the United Nations system to adhere to the Programme of Action contained in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, in particular with regard to increased support for the opponents of apartheid.

With regard to the economic and social conditions in those Territories, the Special Committee submits recommendations specifically relating to activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration, and to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration.

In formulating its recommendations, special attention was paid to the situation in the small island Territories which suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of many factors, such as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion and other factors.

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

As reflected in its report, the Special Committee carried out a number of other tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly in various resolutions, as well as those arising from its own previous decisions relating to the question of publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

In that regard, the Committee again reiterates the importance of the United Nations effecting the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and for mobilizing world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories. Bearing in mind the important role being played by an increasing number of non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process, the Special Committee once again encourages those organizations to continue to disseminate information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the position of the United Nations with regard to decolonization.

During the year, the Committee took part in a number of international conferences and meetings convened by intergovernmental organizations. In the light of the constructive results achieved in that regard and in keeping with related decisions of the Assembly, the Committee decided to continue to maintain close contact with the organizations concerned and to participate in conferences, seminars and other special meetings dealing with decolonization, arranged by those organizations, as well as by other United Nations bodies concerned.

I should like to draw the attention of members to the proposals outlined in section J of chapter 1, entitled "Future work".

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

In that section, it is stated inter alia that, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and subject to any further directives which it may receive from the Assembly during its present session, the Special Committee intends during 1992 to pursue its efforts in seeking the best ways and means for the full implementation of the Declaration in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence.

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

In particular, the Committee will keep under review developments concerning each Territory, as well as the compliance by all States, in particular the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. On the basis of that review, the Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter.

The Special Committee will continue to make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security. The Committee hopes that the proposal contained in that section will meet with the Assembly's approval in order to enable it to proceed with the effective discharge of the task that remains to be completed.

The Special Committee recommends that the General Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers concerned to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the remaining Territories.

In that connection, the Special Committee, bearing in mind the useful results achieved as a consequence of the participation of some of the administering Powers in its work, recommends that the General Assembly again urge the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in its work relating to the Territories under their respective administration.

(Mr. Shaheed, Rapporteur, Special Committee of 24)

Further, bearing in mind the affirmation by the General Assembly that direct participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies was an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples in those Territories, the Special Committee recommends that such participation be encouraged and increased.

The General Assembly may also wish to renew its appeal to all States, specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the United Nations in its resolutions on the question of decolonization.

In the preparation of the proposed programme, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada of Cuba, held extensive consultations throughout the year with all concerned. The arduous work he carried out and the positive contributions he made in this connection are deeply appreciated by all the members of the Special Committee.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I commend the report to the attention of the General Assembly.

Before concluding, permit me to express to all members of the Special Committee and, in particular, to our Acting Chairman, Ambassador Alarcon de Quesada, the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Sverre J. Bergh Johansen of Norway, and Mr. Alexander Slaby of Czechoslovakia, and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, Ambassador Renagi Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, and to the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, my brother, Mr. Ghazi Jomaa of Tunisia, and Mr. José Acosta-Fragachan of Venezuela, respectively, my deep gratitude for the cooperation and support I have received from them, which has greatly facilitated my task as Rapporteur.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, His Excellency Mr. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada of Cuba.

Mr. ALARCON de QUESADA (Cuba), Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Special Committee of 24 (interpretation from Spanish): I am honoured to speak on agenda item 19 at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Allow me at the outset to welcome the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations this year. For the Special Committee of 24, which has devoted long hours in past sessions to considering the colonial situation of those two nations, it is a source of satisfaction to welcome them today to our midst as independent States and to express the hope that that independence and sovereignty may be strengthened over the years.

We are similarly pleased to see the initiation of the settlement plan proposed by the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, following upon the adoption of the corresponding resolutions by the Security Council. We hope that it will be possible to overcome the initial difficulties that have arisen for the full implementation of the plan and for the deployment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), so that the Sahraoui people may, in complete freedom, make their own choice about their future political status in the referendum provided for as part of the plan.

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

The cases to which I have just referred - as was the case for Namibia in the recent past and for many other Territories in the more remote past - are clear evidence not only of the role the United Nations, especially the Special Committee of 24, has played in the advances made in the decolonization process during recent decades but also of the vital importance of international pressure in moving that process forward, a process which has constituted, and continues to constitute, one of the central endeavours of our Organization since its inception.

While it is a fact that the decolonization work of the United Nations has contributed to changing the face of the Earth we should not allow ourselves to fall prey to complacency. Much has been done, but much remains to be done. Many nations have acceded to independence during recent decades, but many others remain under colonial rule. Hence, the General Assembly decided, as recently as three years ago, to proclaim the decade of the 1990s as the United Nations Decade for the Elimination of Colonialism.

There can be no doubt that the work now before us to eradicate colonial domination is substantially different in most cases from that which we have undertaken in the past. It must necessarily be more subtle, and in order to be carried to success, it requires that all of us, including the colonial Powers, not only display a large measure of good will but also exercise our imagination and creative capacity.

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

The majority of Territories remaining under colonial rule are small islands, with limited resources, territory and population, remote from the most important trade routes and vulnerable to the violent forces of nature. In some cases, enclaves are established for bases and military installations which the colonial Powers consider strategic; in other cases, the economic or geopolitical interests of the administering Powers cause them to look with disfavour upon the initiation of a decolonization process; in still others, in an attempt at cultural transformation - including at times cultural depredation - the colonial Powers have endeavoured to introduce their values, their language and their customs into the Territories they have colonized, with the aim of casting aside the indigenous traditions and characteristics of the inhabitants.

All of the foregoing not only complicates the achievement of total decolonization to which this Organization aspires in conformity with the Charter and the decisions of the Assembly but also makes the organs entrusted with the eradication of colonial domination that much more important.

We are not before a situation, as some have suggested, in which colonialism has virtually disappeared and, consequently, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee of 24 no longer have any raison d'être; the point is not that we should forget those Territories remaining under colonial rule nor that we should give free rein to colonial Powers to shape the destiny of the peoples of those Territories according to their whim.

All the decolonization bodies of the United Nations are today more important than ever. The situations they face are more complex than they were

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

in the past and there can be no doubt that the efforts that must be made will be even greater.

So long as there exists a single colonial Territory on Earth, those organs will not have fulfilled their mandate, for every colonial territory - however small its size, meagre its resources and sparse its population - enjoys the same right before the international community fully to exercise its right to self-determination and independence without hindrance. Only when the last of these Territories has exercised that right will we be entitled to say that the work of decolonization has been completed and that the bodies entrusted with that task in the United Nations have become obsolete.

The Charter of the United Nations, which should serve as our guide in this task, addresses itself clearly to those Members of our Organization that administer colonial Territories and urges them to recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these Territories are paramount. Hence, the role of the administering Powers and the cooperation they are called upon to extend to the Special Committee entrusted with the implementation of the Declaration are of fundamental importance.

We congratulate those Powers which through their cooperation have contributed to the work of the Special Committee and we urge those others that still do not cooperate to do so as soon as possible. We believe that if they wish to see the disappearance of the Special Committee and the other decolonization bodies of the United Nations, the best way to achieve that goal is not by trying to weaken or destroy them by procedural or rhetorical means or through a restructuring process but by working hand in hand with other Members of the United Nations for the actual disappearance of the phenomenon

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

that gave rise to them initially and that remains the solid basis for their continued existence - namely, colonialism.

As part of its future programme of work, the Special Committee intends to continue striving to extend the system of dissemination of information both globally and regionally, and to the extent possible to continue forging closer links with the inhabitants of colonial Territories. Thus, it foresees the continuation of its programme of seminars both at and outside Headquarters; these seminars make it possible to establish relations between representatives of colonial Territories and Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, giving rise to more fluid communication, as has been shown by the experience gained from the Vanuatu and Barbados seminars. Similarly, it will continue working with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations in order to facilitate the inclusion of programmes relating to decolonization in the work of that Department.

The dispatch of visiting missions to colonial Territories is also of fundamental importance to the work of the Special Committee. We hope that the cooperation extended by some Powers to those missions will continue and will be expanded and that in future we may rely on the cooperation of the other Powers. If in fact the aim of those Powers is to guarantee the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories, we hope that they will realize that the best way to achieve this is not by looking upon the Special Committee as an adversary but by working together with the Special Committee towards the achievement of a common goal. In that regard, we hope that the dispatch of visiting missions, which facilitates the work of the Special Committee in making recommendations for action, will be expanded in the immediate future.

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

The efforts the Special Committee has made in the course of this year to enhance its efficiency are noteworthy. In this regard, it created a Working Group which formulated a series of recommendations, which were adopted by all members of the body, that not only simplified its structure but also its decision-making process. In the light of this revitalization process, we believe that the Special Committee is in a position to continue its work with renewed efficiency, going more deeply into its recommendations concerning each of the Territories, as well as with regard to military activities and economic interests which are impeding the decolonization process, the role of the specialized agencies and those aspects of apartheid and its consequences that have constituted a traditional part of its work.

I should now like to make a few personal comments. During this year, in my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, I have been able to rely on the full cooperation of my colleagues in the Committee and the staff of the Secretariat assisting us in our work. I wish to express my appreciation to them, particularly to Mr. Bergh Johansen of Norway and Mr. Alexander Slaby of Czechoslovakia, our two Vice-Chairmen, and to Mr. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed of the Syrian Arab Republic, who has served as Rapporteur. Likewise, I extend my appreciation to the other members of the Bureau of the Special Committee. I also wish to express thanks for the role played by my colleague Ambassador Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, who was entrusted with the chairmanship of the Working Group on the revitalization of our Special Committee. It has been an honour for me to work with them in situations that have sometimes been complex, and I have been able at every stage to rely on their cooperation and understanding.

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Acting Chairman, Special Committee of 24)

I am also grateful for the interest shown in our work by the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, and the Under-Secretary-General for the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, Mr. James Jonah. Allow me to pay a tribute through them to the staff of the Secretariat for their constant cooperation throughout the year.

Decolonization has been one of the fundamental responsibilities of the United Nations since its establishment, and it remains so, especially because of the assistance it can provide to the colonial peoples in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The adoption of resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, through which the General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, gave practical expression to the determination of the international community to put an end to this practice once and for all. It is our hope that now, at the present session, on the basis of the decisions to that end taken by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its recent ministerial conference at Accra, Ghana, we shall at last be able to adopt a plan of action for the Decade. We hope that in that way the high priority the General Assembly has conferred on decolonization will be maintained, and that all the cooperation the Special Committee needs for the complete fulfilment of its functions will be provided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now begin the general debate on this agenda item.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): It is true that the world as a whole now lives in a period of profound change. However, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) have not changed. The peoples of colonial countries who do not enjoy self-government and who look for a United Nations significant and effective role, do not doubt for one second that the international organization has been and will always be the international forum that enforces the rights of peoples to self-determination, freedom and an end to all forms and formulas of occupation, oppression and injustice.

More than thirty years have passed since the adoption of the historic General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which is viewed rightly as an important milestone in the history of the United Nations as it has led to great progress in discharging the difficult and painful task of decolonization. Notwithstanding this achievement, there the fact remains that a large number of territories still languishes under the yoke of colonial domination, and that the peoples of those territories are deprived of the possibility of exercising their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence, as stipulated in the resolution.

The changes in international relations have had no positive effect so far on the remaining colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Despite these changes, some administering Powers are not cooperating with the Special Committee. In many cases, the information transmitted by those administering Powers to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter is out of date. For years, most of the administrative Powers have not been permitting the visiting missions to enter the Territories, and not all the administering Powers enable the representatives of the governments of the Territories and other representatives of the peoples of the colonial

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

territories to express their views to the Special Committee, and to other concerned bodies of the United Nations.

There is nothing new in one stressing the fact that, in order for the decolonization process to reach a successful conclusion, it is necessary, as has been reaffirmed repeatedly by the General Assembly, first of all, that the administering Powers and the representatives of these territories should participate in the activities of the relevant United Nations bodies. Secondly, it is necessary to dispatch visiting missions to those territories to assess the situation properly and to ascertain at first hand the real aspirations of the peoples of those territories. Thirdly, it is necessary to ensure the participation of the United Nations in the self-determination processes when they take place in those territories, as far as their future status is concerned.

There is also nothing new in stating that the presence of foreign economic, military and other interests in the colonial countries and territories represents, above all, an obstacle that impedes implementation of the Declaration.

It is a well-known fact that one of the major objectives of colonialism is for the colonial Powers to reap economic, military and other benefits. It does not stand to reason that the activities that aim at reaping such benefits should be in the interest of the colonial peoples. The proof of this is that the economic structures in the colonial countries are predominantly aimed at extracting natural resources that serve the purposes of industry in the industrialized countries and their trading partners. If this was not the case, then what was the point of colonizing those territories in the first place and keeping many of them under colonial domination to this day? This is

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

made abundantly clear by the fact that those colonial countries and territories are - in most cases - under the hegemony of capitals which, sometimes, are thousands of kilometres away and which do not share any of the colonial countries' cultural or ethnic characteristics.

The colonial Powers have entrenched themselves in colonial territories by plundering those territories and exploiting them as a cheap source of raw materials and manpower and, thereby, making huge profits for themselves. However, the matter is not limited to this aspect. It is a well-known fact that the military uses of those territories exceed - in most cases - the economic benefits. In this connection, we reiterate our position, which is that colonial territories should not be used for military activities or purposes, and we repeat the appeal in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, that all military activities in the colonial territories should cease unconditionally and that all military bases and installations be withdrawn completely from those territories. We also call upon the colonial Powers not to use those territories which are under their domination in any manner that would be against the interests of their peoples - such as tests and the dumping of nuclear wastes.

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

The United Nations has adopted several resolutions which have condemned the economic, military and other activities of the colonial Powers in those territories and called for putting an end to those activities, for the resources which are being plundered by the colonial Powers belong to the peoples of those territories.

The Committee of 24 and the Special Committee Against Apartheid have established a cooperative relationship aimed at eliminating the last vestiges of colonialism, apartheid and racism. Hence, it is no surprise that these two Committees stand together in their common endeavour to promote the cause of the people of South Africa, especially since that cause relates also to that people's right to self-determination. In exercising this right, the people of South Africa will be able to decide freely its political future as provided for in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

All peoples have a basic inalienable right to self-determination. This was consecrated in the Declaration on decolonization in 1960. Moreover, the United Nations Charter provides in Article 1, paragraph 2 that second among the purposes and principles of this international Organization is respect for the principle of equal rights of peoples and the right of every people to self-determination.

Failure by some States to respect the rights of peoples who struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid can create dangerous hotbeds of tension in the world and make it possible to violate human rights and trample fundamental freedoms on a large scale, as is happening in the occupied Arab territories and South Africa. There is no doubt that when this natural human right is denied, it means a return to the colonial era, when entire peoples

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

and countries were deprived of this right and the colonial Powers manipulated the geographies and destinies of those peoples at will.

My country, Syria, has stood and continues to stand by the colonial peoples in their just struggle for self-determination and independence. Since the beginning, Syria has been a full-fledged member of the Special Committee on the Status of the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In this capacity, it has contributed directly to the independence of numerous States. As is evident from document A/46/517, Syria is one of the 44 States that offered the granting of scholarships to inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) adopted in 1954.

We shall persist in our efforts, side by side with the entire international community, to conclude the decolonization process. This will require the international community to intensify its efforts to assist non-self-governing and colonial countries to proceed in their march towards self-determination and independence. Thus we would be discharging that part of our task which we have not carried out yet.

Mr. TRINH XUAN LANG (Viet Nam): The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV)), adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960, at its fifteenth session, has been one of the greatest achievements in the history of the Organization. It signified the realization by the world community of the legitimate rights to independence and freedom of millions and millions of people who at that time were still subjected to colonialist rule and of their right to live in

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

dignity. The adoption of that historic document was also a breakthrough in the decolonization efforts of the United Nations and a cornerstone in the process of decolonization, which afterwards experienced an unprecedented upsurge. Over a hundred former colonial nations regained independence and became Members of our Organization. In no area has the United Nations recorded greater success since coming into existence than in the area of decolonization.

At its forty-third session, in 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47, proclaiming the 1990s the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. This was both timely and appropriate.

Last year, in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/34, requesting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the full compliance by all States with resolution 1514 (XV) and the other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization. This was a very significant step taken by the United Nations towards ensuring the complete eradication of colonialism by the end of this century, as envisaged in those resolutions.

Throughout the past 46 years, since the end of the Second World War, we have witnessed a powerful movement against colonialism and for national liberation sweeping over the entire world, winning victory after victory through armed or peaceful means. The wonderful achievements of this movement are a clear manifestation of the irresistible and irreversible trend towards the independence and freedom of all nations, irrespective of their area,

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population or national resources. The successes of this national liberation movement have greatly contributed to the restoration and enhancement of the values of mankind and ushered in an era of peace, freedom and prosperity, an era from which colonialist oppression and exploitation have been banished for ever.

However, today there are still 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories that have not yet had the opportunity to exercise their rights to self-determination and independence. Colonialism has not yet been abolished. Nowadays, under the close scrutiny of the people of the world, colonialist domination and exploitation are being cleverly disguised in the subtlest of forms. As a result, millions of people are still suffering under the colonial yoke in different forms and to varying degrees in their very homelands.

On the road to achieving decolonization, as set out in resolution 43/47, the international community is still faced with many challenges. The decolonization process has now entered a new and complex period in which more effective cooperation among countries and greater efforts by the United Nations are needed.

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

The majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are remote islands small in area and population and poor in resources. The balance created over centuries in the use of the natural resources of these Territories is very fragile and easily upset. We note with concern that the administering Powers continue to deny the colonial nature of the Territories under their administration. Indeed, many of their activities have not helped create the political and economic conditions necessary for the people in those Territories to speed up the process of self-determination.

The indigenous people receive inadequate education. Their exclusion from the administrative and economic systems is another way in which colonial Powers perpetuate their domination. Although not all foreign economic activities in the Territories have negative effects upon the indigenous people, most of those activities are by nature an exploitation of raw materials and cheap human labour. This creates a situation of economic over-dependence of these Territories upon the administering Powers.

The most serious intrusion into the system of vital values of the Territories is the military activities of the administering Powers. Those Powers are using the Territories as military bases and/or testing grounds for new weapons which endanger the lives and health of the inhabitants and threaten the security and stability of the neighbouring countries.

Moreover, certain administering Powers show a lack of cooperation with the Special Committee on decolonization by failing to submit information under Article 73 e of the Charter and refusing to allow the latter's visiting missions to carry out their tasks.

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

All the above-mentioned activities of the administering Powers impede the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories from exercising their right to self-determination.

On the basis of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and in a number of resolutions of the General Assembly, factors related to territorial size, geographical location, population or scant natural resources should in no way prevent those peoples from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The choice must be made through the free expression of the will of the people.

The administering Powers are obliged to create the necessary conditions to enable the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to gain economic and political independence through gradual political transformation, giving high priority to their fair and unbiased education. Indigenous peoples should also be given the opportunity to assume greater responsibilities in the management of their own affairs.

The administering Powers should halt forthwith their exploitation of human labour, preserve the environment of the Territories and avoid the depletion of their natural resources. They must dismantle their military bases and commit themselves to not using the Territories for the deployment or testing of weapons of mass destruction or of any arms that may endanger the lives and health of people in the region. Administering Powers must closely cooperate with the Special Committee and actively comply with all demands of the United Nations.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam firmly holds the view that the inhuman and abhorrent system of apartheid in South Africa and

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

the continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories by Israel are undeniable manifestations of colonialism in its crudest form.

Apartheid in South Africa originates from colonialism, since it ensures the political domination and economic exploitation of the native majority by the alien minority. For over four decades, the agenda item on apartheid has occupied the attention of the United Nations. Many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly have explicitly affirmed that the system of apartheid imposed on the South African people constitutes a gross violation of their fundamental rights and a crime against humanity. On 14 December 1989, the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa was adopted by consensus, clearly expressing the strong will of the international community to abolish that evil.

Since then, considerable progress towards that objective has been recorded. However, the foundations of apartheid in South Africa have not yet been completely eliminated. The South African people are still a long way from that final destination. It is still premature, therefore, to think that pressure on the Pretoria regime should be eased. The world community must remain vigilant until all the conditions stipulated in the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid are met and the South African people really achieve their fundamental rights.

The people of Viet Nam fully support the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. We firmly believe that any settlement of the problems in that region must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). Recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, first and foremost their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent State, is a prerequisite for the achievement of decolonization in that part of the world.

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

The question of Western Sahara is another decolonization issue. It remains to be resolved in such a way as to respect its inhabitants' inalienable right to self-determination. In this connection, we fully support the Secretary-General's plan, now under way, towards a definitive solution to this issue. Viet Nam is also honoured to have been one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/46/L.2 on Western Sahara, which was recently adopted by consensus in the Special Political Committee.

Since the signing of its Charter, and more particularly since the adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations has made tremendous contributions to the magnificent achievements of the decolonization process. The Special Committee on decolonization has played a very important role in keeping the situation in colonial Territories under continuous scrutiny and in bringing about a concerted approach to decolonization in this international forum. The Committee has not only discharged the task of reporting on the implementation of the Declaration but also suggested effective measures to achieve its goal and mobilized international support for and assistance to the peoples still subjected to colonialism. We highly value and appreciate the important contributions of the United Nations and its Special Committee on decolonization for their untiring efforts to achieve the noble objective of decolonization.

Our world has only eight years before the ushering in of the twenty-first century. But much work remains to be done before we can declare that colonialism has been forever abolished from our planet. To that end the United Nations should redouble its efforts, and its Member States - especially the administering Powers and other States concerned - should fully comply with this Organization's relevant resolutions and Declaration.

(Mr. Trinh Xuan Lang, Viet Nam)

The Vietnamese people, who themselves suffered tremendously from the colonialist yoke for nearly a century, have through their valiant fight for independence and freedom made a worthy contribution to the process of decolonization in the world. From this podium we would like once again to reaffirm our people's strong determination consistently and vigorously to support the peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as the people in South Africa, in the occupied Arab lands, in Western Sahara and elsewhere, in their just struggle for self-determination and independence. Viet Nam stands ready to make any suitable contribution towards the attainment of our common objective, that of writing the final chapter in the history of decolonization in this decade. In this connection, I would like to inform you that the delegation of Viet Nam deems it a great honour to co-sponsor the draft resolution (A/46/L.22) on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which will be submitted to this forum today. We firmly believe that this draft resolution, being fully in line with the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, will enjoy the strong support of all Member States of our community.

Mr. SILOVIC (Yugoslavia): In the past years, we have witnessed important achievements in the field of decolonization, in particular in the case of Namibia. The question of Western Sahara has entered a decisive stage and the United Nations is already actively engaged in the preparations for the referendum for self-determination by the people of Western Sahara. There have been encouraging developments with respect to the Malvinas Islands as well, and we consider that negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom will result in a just solution.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

Admittedly, the United Nations and the international community will have some way to go before achieving the goal of universal implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. The fact that the list of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories contains mainly small islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean does not make this obligation on the part of the United Nations any less important.

The experience we have gained reinforces our conviction that the role of the United Nations in the process of decolonization is of paramount importance. Time has also proved that, given the political will and mutual cooperation of all concerned, colonial problems can be settled peacefully. As in other areas of international life, dialogue and cooperation in the field of decolonization is the proper avenue to pursue if we are to ensure that the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are enabled to express freely their will and enjoy the right to self-determination. In order to make our contribution more viable, we should seek to reach a consensus among ourselves on the resolutions and decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly. In doing so, we should make them binding on all and ensure their full implementation.

Some results in that regard have already been achieved in the work of the Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee this year. However, more needs to be done, and both Committees should deal with these questions in a more innovative manner and in a spirit of cooperation. In that context, closer links and cooperation between the Committee of 24 and the administering Powers are essential.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

On the initiative of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the General Assembly has declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We are gratified to see that in his report (A/46/634) the Secretary-General has submitted the proposals for a plan of action for the implementation of the Decade aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century a world free from colonialism. We commend the Secretary-General for his efforts, which prove once again his personal dedication to the cause of decolonization.

In that regard, I am honoured and privileged to present to the General Assembly, on behalf of many non-aligned countries, draft resolution A/46/L.22 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" for consideration and adoption. We have just submitted the text to the Secretariat and we understand it will be published tomorrow. Since it has some financial implications and will take some time to be processed, the General Assembly will take action on this draft in due time. Non-aligned countries have worked tirelessly to make this initiative bear fruit.

The Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Governments of Non-Aligned Countries set up a Working Group with the task of helping carry out a United Nations plan of action for the implementation of the Decade. The group focused its activities at this stage on assisting the Secretary-General in preparing the plan of action and presented a number of ideas and suggestions that had been adopted and endorsed by the Tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries at Accra, Ghana, in September 1991. From the beginning, non-aligned countries had in mind that the plan of action

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

should be formulated in such a way as to enjoy the widest possible support of all States Members of the United Nations, while preserving the principles and positions of non-aligned countries regarding decolonization.

By adopting the draft resolution before it, the General Assembly would at the same time adopt the proposals reflected in the annex to the Secretary-General's report of 12 November 1991 (A/46/634) to serve as a plan of action for the Decade. It would also declare that the ultimate goal of the Decade is the free exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of each and every remaining Non-Self-Governing Territory, which should be carried out freely and without outside pressure, and with an appropriate role for the United Nations.

On behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, I invite all Member States to support it. I would also like to urge all Member States, the whole United Nations system, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action, thereby bringing the United Nations even closer to complete universality and ensuring that the anachronism of colonialism is relegated to history before the dawn of the twenty-first century.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall continue discussion on the item tomorrow morning. I have been informed that four draft resolutions have been submitted for action by the General Assembly under this item. In order to allow for sufficient time for the consideration of the relevant programme budget implications, the Assembly will take action on these draft resolutions in approximately a fortnight, at a time to be announced in the Journal.

(The President)

Furthermore, the reports of the Fourth Committee, previously scheduled for tomorrow, will a o be considered in two weeks' time.

I should like to inform members that on Wednesday, 20 November in the afternoon, the Assembly will consider agenda item 24, "The Situation in Cambodia" and, as already announced, agenda item 18 (g), "Appointment of Members of the Joint Inspection Unit".

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.